

Perfected while being Sanctified

HVFC

September 14, 2025

Jesus is Better Series

Hebrews 10:11-18

It is good to be back in Hebrews; however my mental muscles are sore from working the scriptures over in my mind. But it is worth it with small groups kicking back up. I was able to hear from several groups that last week they had good group discussions.

We spoke last week about moving beyond the shadow. And I feel compelled to share that biblically speaking, not all shadows are bad. The Psalms encourage us to be so close to God that we are in his shadow, which is a good place to be.

But for our discussion last week, when we chase the shadow and look to the shadow while rejecting the true object casting the shadow, we mess up.

The shadow has nothing to offer. And the shadow produces imperfect forgiveness because it uses imperfect sacrifices.

Jesus however came, and offered his body, a perfect sacrifice for sin, which produced perfect forgiveness for those who put their faith in his work on the cross. And with that perfect forgiveness through Jesus's sacrifice God begins a new covenant with humanity. And the writer explains that in our passage this morning.

Turn with me to Hebrews 10 starting in verse 11.

Here the writer is crafting his transition paragraph from old covenant theology, and the work Christ did for us and is going to launch into how we are to respond to God in the new covenant.

Hebrews 10:11-14

11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,

13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.

14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

NKJV

Let's Pray.

Last week was a difficult week for America. It was difficult for me personally hearing the news that Charlie Kirk had been shot and ultimately killed by someone who didn't like what he said and stood for.

We live in troubling times, and we need to be aware of the day we live in.

Scripture teaches that in the last days violence would increase along with many other things. But we are to stand bold for the Faith.

Matthew 24 teaches us that we will be delivered up to tribulation and killed, we will be hated by many, there will be offenses, and betrayals and plenty of hate all around. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

Matthew 24:13-14

13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

NKJV

This life is one that exists in opposing realities.

Hot and cold. Wet and dry. Right and wrong. Sleep and awake.

Enduring and quitting. Saved and unsaved. Heaven and Hell.

And before Jesus came to live with us, the enemy had all of the momentum. Sin had painted us into a corner that did not allow us any escape.

Man was dead because of sin, with no way to find forgiveness.

God in his wisdom, did what he could, but until Jesus lived and died and rose again, sin ruled humanity.

But Jesus created the ability to oppose sin and defeat it once for all time and for all people.

And the writer begins his transition paragraph noting the opposites that now exist because Jesus has given us another way.

Hebrews 10:11-12

11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,

NKJV

In the Old Covenant the priest stood daily ministering with imperfect sacrifices, repeatedly offering sacrifices that could not remove sin.

Compared to Jesus who offered one sacrifice that dealt with sin and sat down.

I am not going to spend much time here as I believe we covered the main ideas of this last week. I want to focus on Jesus.

The Old Covenant could not remove the guilt of sin, but Jesus does.

This man, Jesus. Both man and God, the seed of God born from the virgin Mary, offered one sacrifice.

Himself, a body that was perfect, without sin, holy and most importantly worthy to deal with the problem of sin. He did take the keys of death, hell and the grave, securing victory over sin and death. And is now seated at the right hand of God, waiting!

Hebrews 10:12-13

12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,

13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.

NKJV

He is waiting for the Father to say that this age is over, and to send Jesus back a second time to take his bride.

Remember in Hebrews 9:28 Jesus is returning not to deal with sin, as he has already dealt with sin, but to save those who are eagerly awaiting him.

No one knows the time but the father according to Matt. 24, and 1 Thess 4 says that the Lord will descend and the dead in Christ will rise first, then those who are alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds.

Jesus is waiting for the completion of this age, at which time his enemies will become his footstool. Utter and complete humiliation and defeat.

All of this was completed 2000 years ago. It is interesting, as you look at the words, they are written in the way that says this is all done.

It is all written in past tense.

With this, the writer is concluding the subject matter of the book to this point in regard to the Old Covenant.

And verse 14 launches the New Testament believer on their walk of Faith.

Up to this point in the book of Hebrews, I believe this is the most important verse so far and could be the key verse for the whole book.

Hebrews 10:14

14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

NKJV

This passage is in a way the heart of the Gospel.

From this verse you could preach or teach just about any truth found in the New Testament.

For by one offering of his body and blood, Jesus has done two things for us.

He has perfected us.

He is sanctifying us.

First let's look at Perfected.

He has perfected for ever those...

The Greek word for perfected is (telioo ken) and means complete.

I wish I understood this more but the word is a verb in the 3rd person, singular, Perfect Active Indicative.

Any body know what that means? I didn't.

So I looked it up.

It means simply the action was completed by one person.

Jesus perfected or completed our salvation with one offering forever.

Our salvation is complete.

For those who have placed their faith in Jesus, can they be saved anymore?

The answer is no. Our salvation was perfected, completed on the Cross.

Sin was defeated by Jesus.

Our salvation has become all that it is possible to be, complete, perfect. Jesus finished it, and when we receive him as our Lord and have our sins forgiven we are spiritually alive and able to enter heaven no matter where we are in our sanctification process.

Which brings us to our second point.

How many of you would say you are perfect, complete, with no more to learn or grow in Jesus?

None of us are.

We all still deal with sin and fall short of the mark often.

The believer is in the process of being sanctified.

How many of us are actively working and striving to be sanctified and become perfect?

It reminds me of the scripture about being full of the fruit of the spirit. Are we thinking about the fruit of peace, and just stressing and focusing all of our energy on making the fruit of peace in my life? Are we doing it with love, joy, kindness, etc...

I shared how the word perfected was a verb 3rd person and so forth.

Well the word sanctified is a verb present passive participle masculine plural accusative.

And all that says is that the object, (us) is having the action of sanctification done to us, or we receive sanctification.

We can't work or strive to be sanctified according to this scripture, we must receive and accept the process God is putting us through.

God is the one who is sanctifying us. It is him who is developing Christ likeness in us.

He is actively developing and growing Jesus character in us by the work of the Holy Spirit to bring us to perfection.

That involves us surrendering our will to God and allowing him to sanctify us.

We don't have to be sanctified.

You and I can stop this process by refusing to surrender to God's will and receiving the work of sanctification in our lives.

I don't know if this example is 100% correct, but I was reminded of at least 3 times while at LCC that I was given the chance to choose another path away from where God was bringing me.

I have said it in several ways that God used LCC to prepare me, or sanctify me for being a pastor. Sanctification is a process that we have to allow God to do.

Three times I was offered an off ramp, a fork in the road, to make a drastic change to the plans God had for me.

The one I want to share is this one. In 2010, I was working for Summit Aeronautics, a machine shop. Oddly enough I coveted a job there, I wanted one and chased it down and eventually got hired. During that first year Boeing came in and bought the business. Now it was even better, I was working for a huge company,

the benefits were amazing because I was self employed prior to this with no benefits at all. Our family was growing, and everything was being set up nice.

And one morning I walk into church, Pastor John is there, and ask me, would you like to run a school of missions in Japan for 3 months?

Now you know how thoughts can run through the mind millions of miles a second.

And they did, the chance at a stable career with a large corporation, comforts and security of insurance and steady work inside a large building. Or the shifting, uncertainty of raising my own money and doing ministry abroad with little to no comforts, no insurance, no help, just me and Jesus....

And all this processed in blinding speed, because without skipping a beat I responded almost immediately, yes.

The process of sanctification involves allowing God to write on our hearts and minds his will.

Hebrews 10:16-17

16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,"

17 then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

NKJV

As God is changing or sanctifying us by putting his law in our hearts, he is developing within us the character of Jesus.

His goal is to have holy character which empowers holy living.

It isn't about holy actions only.

It is a heart issue.

When our heart belongs to God, our character begins to change.

Our character is a unique combination of qualities that make us who we are. It is about moral and mental strengths, our integrity, and how we behave towards other people.

The fruit of the spirit are character traits God is seeking to develop in all of us.

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.

The majority of Christian living is learning to submit to God.

All too often we live life with this prayer and motto.

“God I am going this way, come with me and bless me”.

We live life on our terms, using our wisdom, following cultural norms and expect God to grant our wishes, I mean petitions.

Salvation is a process, yes we are saved, but also we are being saved day by day.

MacLaren made this quote about the process of salvation and submitting to the Lordship of Jesus.

“Oh brethren, if we are not ascending the ladder that reaches to heaven, which is Christ himself, we are descending; if we are not growing we are dwindling; and if we cannot say that we are being sanctified, we are being made more and more common and profane.

Stand with me.

In life things that stagnate die.

We are either growing, or we are dwindling.

And Jesus came and perfected those who are being sanctified.

Sanctification is a process that we must allow to be done to us by submitting our will, wants, desires, thoughts, addictions, and selfishness to the plan of Jesus.

We have the option to live life our way, to reject the process of becoming holy, and fall away from salvation.

However we will only be perfected if we allow the process of sanctification.

That is how we access God, no longer through the external practices, but by allowing the law to be written on our hearts through the process of sanctification.

Allowing God to develop his character within us.